



YUKON RIVER NEWS RELEASE

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Fish and Game
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YUKON AREA, DISTRICTS 6 (TANANA RIVER) COMMERCIAL AND SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHING SCHEDULES

The department is announcing the opening of the commercial salmon fishing season in District 6 effective 6:00 p.m. Friday, July 11, 2003. Commercial fishers in Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B, and 6-C, may fish **two 42-hour** commercial salmon fishing periods from **6:00 p.m. Friday, July 11 until 12:00 Noon Sunday, July 13, 2003** and from **6:00 p.m. Monday, July 14 until 12:00 Noon Wednesday, July 16, 2003**. District 6 includes the Tanana River communities of Manley, Minto, Nenana, and the Fairbanks area. **All commercial fishers must be sure they have a buyer before commercial salmon fishing.**

The lower Yukon River chinook salmon test fishery, subsistence salmon harvests and Pilot Station sonar data indicate that the chinook salmon run is five to seven days early. At this time, the chinook salmon run is better than last year. The targeted harvest range for District 6 is 600 – 800 chinook salmon. Additionally, the Tanana River is managed under the Tanana River Salmon Management Plan, which allows for the targeted harvest range of 600 - 800 chinook salmon to be exceeded if escapement and subsistence needs are anticipated to be met. Provided there is a market, additional fishing periods may be scheduled.

The department will be monitoring the Chena and Salcha River tower escapement projects, Tanana Village and Nenana video test fish wheels, and subsistence catches to determine the appropriate harvest level. The Chena River chinook salmon escapement goal range is 2,800 to 5,700 fish. The Salcha River chinook salmon escapement goal range is 3,300 to 6,500 fish. The Chena and Salcha River tower counts through July 8 are 1,608 and 3,255 chinook salmon, respectively.

The subsistence and personal use salmon fishing schedule in Subdistricts 6-A, 6-B, and 6-C is unaltered by this announcement and remains open from 6:00 p.m. Mondays until 12:00 noon Wednesdays and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 12:00 noon Sundays except in the Old Minto area. In the Old Minto area subsistence salmon fishing is allowed five days a week from 6:00 p.m. Fridays until 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays.

Fishermen are reminded that a subsistence salmon fishing permit is required in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B, and a personal use salmon fishing permit and sportfish license is required in Subdistrict 6-C.

Additionally, in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B subsistence fishing for non-salmon species, such as whitefish and other non-salmon fish species remains open 7 days per week. Gillnets used for harvesting non-salmon species during salmon fishing closures in Subdistricts 6-A and 6-B are restricted to a maximum length of 60 feet and a maximum mesh size of 4-inches. Fish wheels may not be used during closed salmon periods

For a recording of the current fishing schedule for your area call 1-866-479-7387 (toll free outside of Fairbanks, in Fairbanks 459-7387). If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the Alaska Department of Fish and Game office in Fairbanks at 459-7274.

This has been a report by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

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